

G-IV-~~A~~-071

William Wilson Ashby House
Crellin
Private

1876-1877

The William Wilson Ashby House is significant because of its association with the Ashby family, early settlers in Garrett County. It is also significant as one of the few fine late 19th century brick houses in Garrett County.

The house, built between 1876 and 1877, is a brick, 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay, classically influenced dwelling based on the ell-plan and has a hip-roof. The main block measures 20 x 50 feet and the ell, 20 x 40 feet. The facade faces east and has a central entrance.

One hundred thousand bricks were used in the construction of the house. The brick is laid in common bond.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-IV-A-071
MAGI #12084 85604
NR

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

William Wilson Ashby House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Crellin-Underwood Rd., West side, approx. 1 mile South of Crellin

CITY, TOWN

Crellin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dorsey T. Ashby

Telephone #: 301-334-3540

STREET & NUMBER

Crellin - Underwood Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Crellin

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21550

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

G-IV-A-071

CONDITION☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The William Wilson Ashby House is located approximately 1 mile southwest of Crellin, MD. The house is presently abandoned.

The house, built between 1876 and 1877, is a brick, 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay, classically influenced dwelling based on the ell-plan and has a hip roof. The main block measures 20 x 50 feet and the ell, 20 x 40 feet. The facade faces east and has a central entrance.

One hundred thousand bricks were used in the construction of the house. The brick is laid in common bond. The first story walls are laid 3 courses deep and the second story, 2 courses deep. Interior wall partitions are made of brick. The foundation is made of cut stone laid 3 feet wide and 3 feet high in the front.

The facade entrance is flanked by wooden panels, surmounted by side lights and an 8-pane transom. The door is paneled and the entire entrance has plain, narrow board surrounds. Most of the windows are broken and boarded up, but the ones that are located in the ell are 1 over 1 sash. Based on historical photos, it appears that the windows were 2 by 2 sash. There is a double window, above the facade entrance, at the second story. All windows have narrow plain board surrounds and a one-course wide brick lintel.

A wide, wooden cornice has double brackets across the facade and at the corners of the main block; single brackets adorn the remaining elevations and the ell.

The facade has undergone at least one porch alteration. The existing porch, although in a deteriorating condition, runs the length of the facade and is 1 story with a hipped roof and supported by wooden Doric columns. A c. 1920 photo reveals a 1-story, hipped roof porch covering just the entrance bay and featured scroll work ornamentation and latticing at the base. A late 1800's photo reveals that originally the house did not have a facade porch.

A dilapidated shed enclosure covers the rear, west elevation of the house and part of the south elevation of the ell. There is an entrance into the west end of the south elevation of the ell which consists of a paneled door with a transom.

There are 3 interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps: one at the north elevation and one at the south elevation of the main block, and the third is located in the ell.

Interior: The house is a central hallway, four room plan with the kitchen located in the ell. The facade entrance opens into a small anteroom from which a stairway leads to the upper story. A central hallway leads through, past the stairway, to a rear door which opens onto the back porch. There are small fireplaces in each room. The fireplace in the kitchen was never used except to accomodate a cast iron cookstove.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	Early settlers			

SPECIFIC DATES 1876-1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Hugh Smiley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Wilson Ashby House is significant because of its association with the Ashby family, early settlers in Garrett County. It is also significant as one of the few fine late 19th century brick houses in Garrett County.

History and Support

In 1875, William Wilson Ashby employed a Hugh Smiley of Augusta County, VA. to assist him with the construction of a new house to accomodate his large family of a wife, 7 sons and 3 daughters. A nearby 2 room log house with a sleeping loft, was not sufficient enough to hold the Ashby family (Ashby, p. 28).

It is interesting to note that Mr. Smiley recommended the construction of a brick house in a land where lumber was plentiful and with the nearby availability of an Ashby family sawmill. Somehow, Hugh Smiley convinced William Wilson Ashby that a house built of handmade brick would be cheaper than a wood one of comparable size. The construction was accomplished at a cost of \$1000 to Mr. Ashby (Ashby, p. 30).

Hugh Smiley was assisted by various members of the Ashby family in the construction of the house. Prior to Mr. Smiley's arrival at the site in April 1876, the Ashby family cleared a half acre of land, across the road from the house, for the brickyard and cut 25 cords of rock oak wood for the kiln. (Iret Ashby notes in his book, The Ashby Story, that even though coal was available a 100 yards from the brickyard, no one made the association of its usefullness in fueling the kiln). The first story of the house was constructed in 1876 and the second story was completed in 1877 (Ashby, p. 28).

110,000 bricks were made from yellow clay in a nearby clay bank. Mr. Smiley concocted a horse-powered wooden clay mixer and double brick molds. Mortar for the bricks, consisting of burnt limestone, was also made on location. (Ashby, p. 28-29).

100,000 brickds were used in the construction of the house and the remaining 10,000 were offered for sale. (Ashby, p. 29 and 30).

William Wilson Ashby was the grandson of William Wilton Ashby, one of the earliest settlers in Garrett County. In 1774, William Wilton and his wife, Sarah Williams came with his uncle, John Ashby and 43 other pioneers from the south branch of the Potomac, to a site near present day Gortner in Garrett County. They were on their way to Kentucky, but due to the ensuing revolution, they were advised by a scout to remain in tern Maryland. (Ashby, p. 3-6).

In 1836, the tract of land on which the Ashby brick house now stands was acquired by William Wilson and Thomas Wilson Ashby, brothers. (They were 2 sons of triplets

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashby, Iret. The Ashby Story. Terra Alta, W.VA.: Pioneer Press, 1975.

Shaffer, Robert C. History of Crellin, Maryland. Oakland: Sincell Printing Co., Inc., 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

September 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

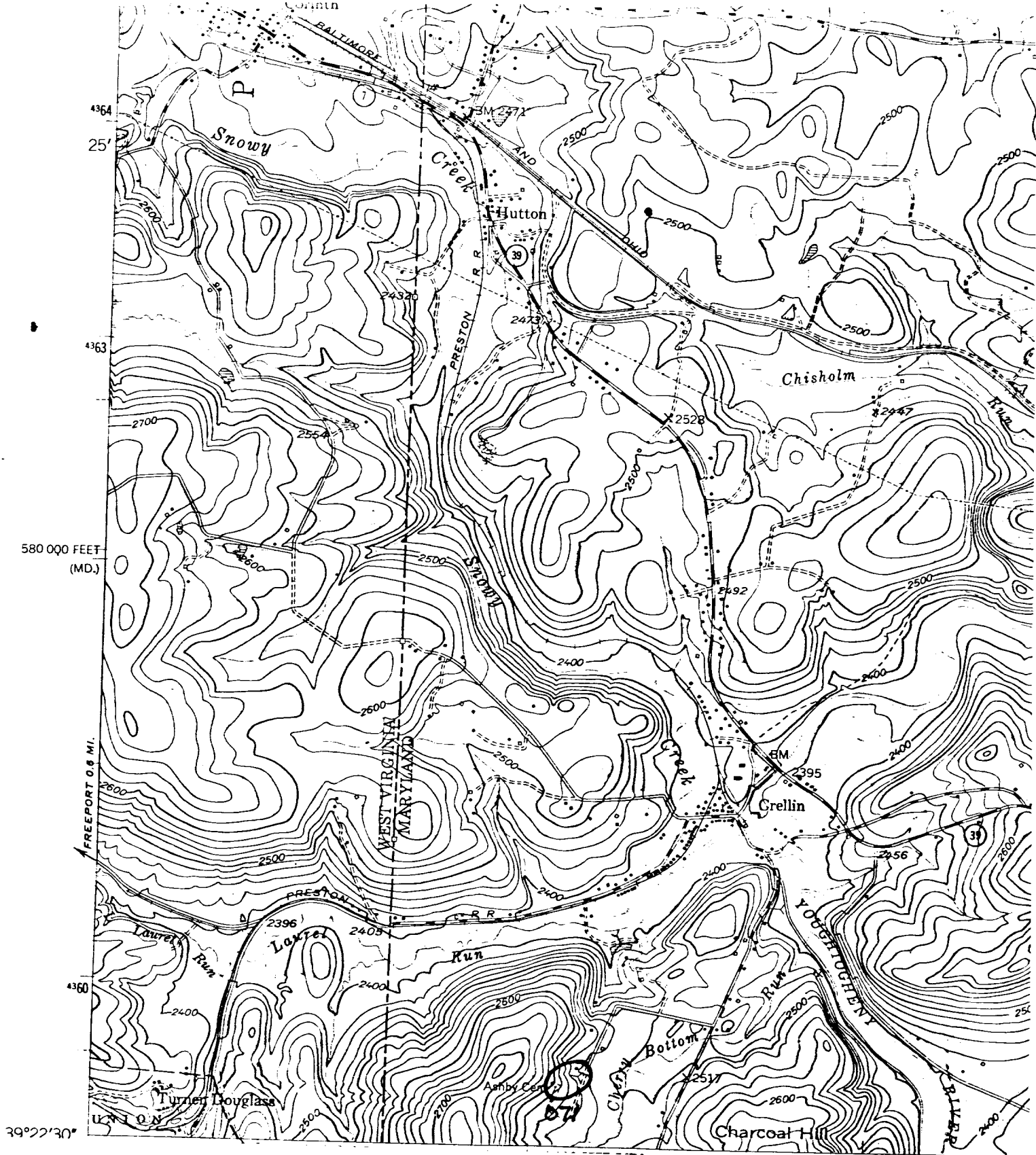
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

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(Continued - #8, Significance)

born to William Williams and Mary Wilson Ashby in 1809) (Ashby, p. 22).

William Wilson Ashby died in 1902. The house, now owned by Dorsey Ashby, has remained in Ashby family hands since that time.



Oakland, MD:WV Quad.
 Crellin
 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-IV-A-071
 William Wilson Ashby House
 West side, approx. 1 mile S of Crellin
 Crellin-Underwood Rd.



G-IV-A-071

Wm. Wilson Ashby Hs.

Garrett Co., Md.

C Crawford 8/81

Facade E. elev (House)



G-IV-A-071

Wm. Wilson Ashby Hs.

Garrett Co., Md.

C Crawford 8/81

House: side-s. elev.



G-IV-A-071

Wm. Wilson Ashby Hs.

Garrett Co., Md.

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House: side - s. elev.